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Viewing cable 08BOGOTA3028, GOC WANTS QUICK AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL ON DEFENSE

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA3028**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08BOGOTA3028	2008-08-18 17:13	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0004
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #3028 2311713
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 181713Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4220
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8329
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0881
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6459
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 2169
RUEHQZ/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7151
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFSS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003028

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/13/2018
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [MCAP](#) [PGOV](#) [CO](#)
SUBJECT: GOC WANTS QUICK AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL ON DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Classified By: Ambassador William R. Brownfield
Reasons 1.4 (b and d)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY. The Ambassador delivered draft text of the Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) to the Acting Foreign Minister, Minister of Defense, and Armed Forces Commander on September 13-14. All agreed that a formal agreement was necessary, hoped to announce agreement in principle soon, and hoped it could be portrayed to the media as continuation of long-standing cooperation. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) The Ambassador on August 13, met with acting Foreign Minister Camilo Reyes and passed him a diplomatic note in both English and Spanish containing the draft U.S-Colombia Defense Cooperation Agreement (reftel). The Ambassador summarized our full proposal for use of Palanquero, Apiay, and Barranquilla, and other provisions regarding privileges and immunities. He told Reyes that following Ecuador's decision not to renew the agreement covering the Cooperative Security Location (CSL) at Manta, the USG wanted to provide the GOC our draft now. The Ambassador said the USG would not publicly release any information on the agreement; the decision on when and how to make the agreement public rested with the GOC. The Ambassador also met separately with Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos and Armed Forces Commander General Freddy Padilla, and provided them with copies of the draft and similar talking points.

¶3. (C) Reyes told us that the GOC wanted to reach an agreement in principal as quickly as possible, and would also review the U.S. agreement covering Manta. Reyes indicated that once an agreement in principal is reached, our governments would be able to iron out remaining details later. This would allow the GOC to quickly and more easily control the release of news on the agreement. He said the GOC would likely frame the agreement as a "continuation of our historic cooperation." Reyes added that he planned to review the U.S. agreement with Ecuador over the use of Manta as a "point of comparison."

¶4. (C) Defense Minister Santos, after initially questioning whether a formal agreement was needed--and worth the public scrutiny--told the Ambassador he agreed that this new step in the U.S.-Colombia security partnership would require something formal. Like Reyes, he very much hoped the new agreement could be couched publicly in terms of continuation of long-standing bilateral cooperation. He added that President Uribe would likely want to conclude an agreement quickly, noting that Uribe planned to visit Washington September 18. Uribe would probably prefer to finish by November, he added. Santos also indicated that a formal agreement would assure continuity in key elements of the U.S.-Colombia relationship over the long-term.

BROWNFIELD

=====CABLE ENDS=====